

EMBARGOED UNTIL ACTUAL VOTE – EXPECTED LATE TONIGHT 6/4/2003

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2003

Contact: Micah Swafford
202-225-2132

Istook Votes to Ban Partial-Birth Abortion

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) voted today to ban partial-birth abortion. The measure would make it illegal for a physician to perform partial-birth abortion.

“This procedure is gruesome and barbaric,” stated Istook. **“Even many people who generally support abortion agree that this is so horrible that it must be outlawed.”**

Partial-birth abortion is conducted late in a woman’s pregnancy, in the second and third trimesters, by delivering the baby feet first until the entire body except the head is outside the birth canal, then puncturing its skull and sucking the baby’s brains out.

Many abortionists for a long time tried to conceal how common the practice had become. The executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, Dr. Ron Fitzsimmons, ultimately confessed publicly that he and others had been lying about how widespread the practice is. In a interview with *The New York Times* he admitted the lies that he and others had been telling to the media and the public. He also admitted that women typically use partial-birth abortion simply as a means to get rid of an unwanted pregnancy, not because the mother’s life is in danger. He added that partial-birth abortion “...is a form of killing. You’re ending a life.”

President Bush has indicated that he will sign the historic legislation, which President Clinton had vetoed twice before. First, however, the House and Senate must conduct a conference to remove extraneous provisions from the bill.

“As the father of five, I have seen the miracle of birth,” added Istook. **“We need to protect infants, not permit this barbaric procedure. No civilized society should permit this.”**